Message Text

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, IS, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO: ISRAELI VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

REF: (A) STATE 7569, (B) TEL AVIV 407

- 1. DURING A CONVERSATION JANUARY 19 WITH SHLOMO AVINERI, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MFA,HE RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATION AND SPOKE MORE SHARPLY THAN BAR-YAACOV HAD EARLIER (SEE REFTEL B).
- 2. AVINERI SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE CERTIFICATION.
 UNESCO HAS NOT OVERCOME ITS RECENT TREND TOWARD ACTIONS OF A POLITICAL NATURE; OF FOUR ISSUES WHICH WERE IMPORTANT TO ISRAEL AT THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE, ONLY ONE WAS SUCCESSFULLY SETTLED. HE IS AWARE, HE SAID, OF OUR HOPE THAT RESTORATION OF U.S. FUNDING WILL ENCOURAGE M'BOW TOWARD MODERATION AND WILL HELP UNESCO DEVELOP INTO AN ORGANIZATION IN WHICH THE WEST CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS. M'BOW IS NOT A FRIEND OF THE WEST AND IT IS WRONG TO THINK HE WILL HELP RESTORE THE WESTERN ROLE IN UNESCO. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. WHILE IT WOULD BE "PRESUMPTUOUS" TO OFFER ADVICE ON WHAT MUST BE A U.S. DECISION, AVINERI SAID IF ONLY HALF THE ARREARAGE WERE TO BE PAID, THIS WOULD LET M'BOW KNOW THAT THE U.S. IS STILL NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT THAT MANY U.S. CONGRESSMEN SHARED THIS VIEW.

4. COMMENT:THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT AVINERI HEADED THE ISRAELI DELEGATION TO NAIROBI LAST NOVEMBER AND GAVE THE MAJOR STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE OF ISRAELI VIEWS. HE IS INTERESTED IN AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OF UNESCO AFFAIRS AND PERSONALLY PLAYS A MAJOR PART IN THE MINISTRY'S POLICY DECISION IN THIS AREA. (THIS WILL INCREASE WITH THE DEPARTURE OF MORDECAI KIDRON FOR STOCKHOLM AND THE RETIREMENT OF NATHAN BAR-YAACOV.) HIS REMARK REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THE ISRAELIS HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT ON THE HILL.

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TAGS: PORG, IS, US, UNESCO

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